



U.S. Department of Justice

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Nov 27, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Tommy J. Hollifield

OAKLAND, MICH. MAN SENTENCED FOR MAKING PIPE BOMB

A former employee of Detronic Industries, Sterling Heights, MI was sentenced today to three months in custody, followed by a period of three months of home confinement and a two year period of supervised release for charges related to the manufacture of an unregistered destructive device (pipe bomb), United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Tommy J. Hollifield, 48, of Oakland, MI, was sentenced by United States District Judge Paul D. Borman.

Hollifield pleaded guilty on April 24, 2006 to one count of Manufacture of an Unregistered Destructive Device. The offense arose following Hollifield's arrest at his place of employment by Sterling Heights Police, who responded to a report that an employee was in possession of a pipe-bomb. During a search of Hollifield's work area the pipe-bomb was recovered. Additional explosive devices were recovered by the police during a search of

Hollifield's vehicle, which was parked in the business' parking lot. Other miscellaneous materials used to manufacture explosives and partially constructed M-80 type explosive devices were recovered from Hollifield's residence.

At the time of his plea, Hollifield admitted to manufacturing the pipe bomb, and previously selling it to a co-employee. Hollifield acknowledged that he constructed the pipe bomb with an empty section of cardboard tube containing powder, nails, screws and BB pellets. Hollifield has also admitted to manufacturing homemade fireworks on other occasions and selling them to others to supplement his income.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated, "Pipe bombs and similar explosive devices present clear and present dangers to the public. Anyone who would endanger others with such destructive items can expect a swift and decisive prosecution response from my office. I commend the excellent work of both ATF and the Sterling Heights Police Department in protecting our community through this investigation."

"In this day and age of terrorism we take very seriously those who manufacture, distribute or possess illegal explosive devices. There is no lawful purpose for these devices and they are a great danger to our society," stated SAC Goddard. "This case highlights our commitment to arrest and prosecute bomb builders regardless of their intent.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Gillooly and investigated by ATF and the Sterling Heights Police Department, with the assistance of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Bomb Squad, Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.